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Text:

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 03242

SIPDIS

CXABU:

ACTION: POL

INFO: RSO AMB DCM MEPI PAO P/M ECON

DISSEMINATION: POL

CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:MJSISON

DRAFTED: POL:JFMAYBURY

CLEARED: NONE

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0809

INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE

RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 5254

RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 003242

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/FO, NEA/ARPI, AND NEA/PD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/23/2015

TAGS: PTER PREL KISL KPAO TC

SUBJECT: UAE CONDEMNS SHARM AL SHEIKH ATTACK

REF: ABU DHABI 3161

Classified By: AMBASSADOR MICHELE J. SISON, REASONS 1.4  
(B) AND (D).

¶1. (C) Summary: UAE leaders have publicly condemned the July 23 attack in Egypt's Sharm Al Sheikh, and have called on religious leaders to preach tolerance and moderation. Three UAE nationals were injured in the explosions, according to press reports. As reported reftel, after the July 7 attacks in London, the UAEG directed imams in the 1,500 mosques where Friday sermons are delivered to read from sermons approved by the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs condemning acts of terror. The sermons are part of a national strategy to combat terror. End Summary.

¶2. (U) Following the July 23 terrorist attack in Sharm Al Sheikh, UAE President Khalifa made a telephone call to Egyptian President Mubarak and also sent him a cabled message of solidarity in which he strongly condemned the bombings, according to press reports. Khalifa expressed confidence in Cairo's ability to overcome the terror acts, which "were not permitted by any religion, principle, or human behavior." Deputy Prime Minister and MinState for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed expressed the UAE's full solidarity with Egypt, and said the "UAE stands by Cairo in its fight against criminal and terror elements that choose to spread terror and to destroy innocent lives." He urged Arab and Islamic countries to "work together in a decisive and firm manner against the evil group." Hamdan also specifically called on religious leaders and academics "to confront destructive ideologies that target our societies, values and principles, by spreading values of tolerance and moderation in their societies."

¶3. (C) After the July 7 terror attacks in London, the UAEG directed imams in the UAE's 1,500 Sunni and Shi'a mosques where Friday sermons are delivered (there are approximately 4,000 mosques nationwide) to read verbatim from sermons approved by the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs condemning acts of terror. Sermons on both July 15 and 22 denounced terrorism and extremism. We have been told by ruling Al Nahyan family members that we should expect similar messages from the minbars in the future as part of a UAE national strategy to combat terror.

¶4. (U) Information Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed sent a cable of condolences to the Egyptian tourism minister in which he said "the evil hands that committed the heinous crime, which left behind a big loss of lives, cannot cripple Egypt's ability to overcome the effect of the attacks and to bring the perpetrators to justice." Other leaders who sent cables to Mubarak were the UAE Vice President/Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum; Minister of Defense, Dubai Deputy Ruler, and Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid; Ruler of Sharjah Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi; Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed; and Dubai Deputy Ruler and Minister of Finance and Industry Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid.

¶5. (U) An editorial in the semi-official Arabic daily "Al Ittihad" on July 24 said that "no Muslim can find any logic or justification for these criminal acts." The editorial asked rhetorically who the attackers intended to target and what cause they were fighting for, given that more than half the victims were Egyptians and only a few were foreigners. The "Al Ittihad" editorial said that the Islamic world has the bigger burden to call on religious institutions to eliminate ignorance of Islam.

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